discharges, sanitary landfills, and inadequate facilities for toxic waste disposal. Although metallic mining is not a significant activity in Wisconsin, much of the state's concern and action in ground water regulatory actions was prompted by interest in metallic mine deposits and a potential for mining in the state. The second major incentive for a stronger ground water protection program was stimulated by the discovery of aldicarb and other pesticides in ground water and by controversies over landfill activities and operations.

Wisconsin is a state with a long history of environmental concern and public awareness of the importance of environmental quality, specifically the importance of ground water quality. Therefore, there has been strong public involvement and interest in developing a strong and effective ground water protection program,

## Ground Water Management and Protection

Wisconsin's ground water quality protection program is relatively new. It is based primarily on legislation passed in 1984, which included five main components. The first and foremost of these components is the development of ground water quality standards. The second is to provide funds for replacement of contaminated water supplies. The third aspect is to provide an environmental repair fund, and the fourth component is to develop a water quality monitoring network. The fifth aspect of this program is to certify laboratories to be used to analyze ground water quality. The Wisconsin program does not rely on a system of aquifer classification.

One of the main strengths of the program seems to be the traditional regulatory approach to managing water quality based on water quality standards. This is done in a more comprehensive approach than in most other states. Several things are unique about Wisconsin's ground water quality standards: first, they apply to any sort of environmental activity that is regulated by a state agency; and second, they have a two-tiered approach—for each regulated compound there are two concentration limits, one called the "enforcement standard," similar to a health advisory limit or a maximum contaminant level, and the other called a "preventive action limit," which is a fraction (10, 20, or 50 percent) of the enforcement standard. Another unusual aspect of Wisconsin's system is a compensation program for people with wells that become polluted with man-made chemicals. The state has a no-fault program that will pay for 80 percent of the cost of replacement of their well regardless of the cause of the pollution.

The Wisconsin program involves several state agencies, and an important part of that program includes the Ground Water Coordinating Council. This council consists of representatives from all the involved agencies who meet routinely to coordinate state ground water activities.